

Good Morning Senator Maynard, Representative Hennessey, distinguished members of the Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs. For the record, I am State Representative Paul Davis of the 117<sup>th</sup> Assembly District (Orange, West Haven, Milford).

The purpose of my testimony this morning is to provide testimony in support of HB 5955 "An Act Concerning Assistance to Veterans' Organizations from the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund."

This past Autumn I attended a ceremony dedicating a handicap ramp at our local American Legion Hall. During the ceremony several speakers mentioned the problems with the cost of upkeep related to the aging building. Having been to events and meetings at several veterans' facilities I know this problem is not unique to our local hall.

Most of these buildings are older, have poor insulation, inefficient heating and lighting, and windows that no longer work. Correcting these problems requires a significant investment by organizations that are already facing severe financial challenges. While all these organizations currently are eligible to apply for grants from the CEEF, they must compete with every other grant application. Designating a small percentage of the Fund for veterans' organization would provide a small advantage to them in addressing these vital needs.

I would like to thank the committee for giving me the opportunity to speak today and would welcome the chance to answer any of your questions.